

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (New): A process for preparing a liquid formulation of salts of sulfonated azo dyes, comprising
preparing vesuvin from m-phenylenediamine;
reacting at least an equimolar amount of at least one diazotized aminoarylsulfonic acid with vesuvin to form at least two dyes;
isolating the dyes in their acid form; and
dissolving the dyes in at least one aqueous base;
wherein the reaction is performed without isolating the vesuvin.

Claim 8 (New): The process of claim 7, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid has the formula:



wherein Ar is phenylene.

Claim 9 (New): The process of claim 8, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is substituted with an additional sulfonic acid group.

Claim 10 (New): The process of claim 7, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid has the formula:



wherein Ar is naphthalene.

Claim 11 (New): The process of claim 10, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is substituted with an additional sulfonic acid group.

Claim 12 (New): The process of claim 10, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is substituted with two additional sulfonic acid groups.

Claim 13 (New): The process of claim 10, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is substituted with a hydroxyl group.

Claim 14 (New): The process of claim 11, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is additionally substituted with a hydroxyl group.

Claim 15 (New): The process of claim 12, wherein the aminoarylsulfonic acid is additionally substituted with a hydroxyl group.

Claim 16 (New): The process of claim 7, wherein the azo dyes are prepared from an o-aminobenzenesulfonic acid diazo component, a m-aminobenzenesulfonic acid diazo component, a p-aminobenzenesulfonic acid diazo component, or a combination thereof.

Claim 17 (New): The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the vesuvin and the diazo components are used in a stoichiometric ratio ranging from 1 : 1 to 1: 4.

Claim 18 (New): The process of claim 7, wherein the reaction of at least one diazotized aminoarylsulfonic acid with vesuvin is carried out at a pH ranging from 4 to 8.

Claim 19 (New): The process of claim 7, wherein the at least two dyes are isolated by adjusting the pH to a value ranging from 0 to 4.5.

Claim 20 (New): The process of claim 7, wherein the at least two dyes are crystallized by stepwise acidification.

Claim 21 (New): The process of claim 7, wherein the at least two dyes are crystallized at a temperature ranging from 20 to 70°C.